

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OES-03 L-02 BIB-01 PA-01 PRS-01

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O 131003Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1169

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 5714

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJ: US-GOR NEGOTIATIONS OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT: IMPL-
MENTING CONDITIONS - GRANTEE HOUSING

REF: BUCHAREST 5711

1. DURING HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WITH GLIGA AND ROSIANU
LAST NIGHT, RICHMOND, GILBERT ANDI REVIEWED IMPLICA-
TIONS OF NEW HOUSING DECREE AFFECTING FOREIGNERS. I
TOLD GLIGA OF OUR CONCERNS FOR THE 18 AMERICAN GRANTEES (8
FULBRIGHT, 8 IREX AND 2 NSF) NOW LIVING IN PRIVATE
QUARTERS WHOSE PROGRAMS WOULD BE AFFECTED IF THEY WERE
FORCED TO MOVE. I TOLD HIM OF TWO FAMILIES WHO'D ALREADY
BEEN ASKED TO VACATE THEIR QUARTERS ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTOOD
THE DECREE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO GO INTO EFFECT FOR THREE
MONTHS. NEXT I TALKED OF THE LIKELY LONGER TERM DETRIMENTAL
EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN GRANTEES COMING TO
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ROMANIA IF HOTELS WERE TO BE THEIR ONLY CHOICE FOR

LODGING. FINALLY, I ASKED GLIGA'S HELP IN TRYING TO FIND SOME SOLUTION WHICH WOULD NOT DISRPUT THE PROGRAMS OF THOSE NOW HERE AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE NEXT GROUP OF GRANTEES WITH HOUSING CONDITIONS COMPARABLE TO THOSE NOW ENJOYED UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND THE SEVERAL ARRANGEMENTS MENTIONED THEREIN.

2. GLIGA REPLIED THAT HE COULD APPRECIATE OUR CONCERN AND THAT IN FACT HE TOO HAD LEARNED OF THE DECREE THE SAME DAY WE HAD. HE ASSURED US THAT, WHILE THE DECREE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE RESPECTED, HE WAS CERTAIN THE ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO ENABLE AMERICAN GRANTEES TO CARRY ON THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HE HIMSELF HAD NOT YET SEEN THE DECREE, HE SAID HE COULD ONLY SHARE HIS THOUGHTS WITH US NOW AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE. HE FELT THAT BETWEEN HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SINGLE GRANTEES AND STATE-OWNED OR INSTITUTION-CONTROLLED APARTMENTS FOR FAMILIES, THE LONGER TERM PROBLEM OF SUITABLE HOUSING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS COULD BE HANDLED SATISFACTORILY. THE ROMANIAN SIDE WOULD OF COURSE ALSO ARRANGE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY HOUSING STIPEND TO COVER THE LIKELY INCREASED COST. WITH REGARD TO THIS YEAR'S GROUP, IN RESPONSE TO MY SUGGESTION THAT IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE TO APPROVE SOME EXCEPTIONS, HE ASKED US FOR A LIST OF THE INDIVIDUALS NOW OCCUPYING PRIVATE HOUSING AND THE LENGTH OF THEIR REMAINING PROGRAMS, SO HE COULD SEE WHETHER THEY COULD BE PERMITTED TO STAY ON IN THEIR PRESENT QUARTERS. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD CONTACT THE PROPER AUTHORITIES TO MAKE SURE NO ONE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE PRIVATE HOUSING AT THIS STAGE (EMBASSY HAS ALREADY BEGUN NOTIFYING GRANTEES IN THIS CATEGORY NOT TO MOVE WITHOUT CHECKING WITH THE EMBASSY AND WITH THEIR HOST INSTITUTIONS). HE ALSO PROMISED TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS IMMEDIATELY WITH THE VARIOUS ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO TRY TO REACH AN EARLY SETTLEMENT ON HOUSING ALTERNATIVES AND THEIR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT YET TELL WHETHER IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SEEK COUNCIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF MINISTERS APPROVAL FOR SOME ASPECTS OF A SOLUTION BUT IN ANY CASE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL PROBABLY TAKE WELL INTO JANUARY TO COMPLETE. HE REASSURED US AT SEVERAL POINTS THAT THE ROMANIAN SIDE WOULD RESPECT THE OBLIGATIONS IT HAD UNDERTAKEN BOTH IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT AS WELL AS IN THE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE SUITABLE HOUSING.

3. WE THEN DISCUSSED HOW TO HANDLE THIS UNEXPECTED SITUATION IN TERMS OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS. GLIGA SUGGESTED REPLACING THE SECOND SENTENCE IN ARTICLE I.C.6 WITH THE GENERAL STATEMENT THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL REACH AGREEMENT ON THE AMOUNT OF A SUPPLEMENTARY HOUSING STIPEND FOR AMERICAN RESEARCHERS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS WITHIN SIXTY DAYS. I THEN ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPLEMENT THIS PROVISION WITH A LETTER GIVING US ASSURANCES OF ROMANIAN EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE NEWLY ARISEN HOUSING PROBLEM IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO HARM THE NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CURRENT GRANTEEES AND TO FIND SUITABLE HOUSING FOR FUTURE GRANTEEES IN THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT. HE IN TURN SUGGESTED WE PREPARE A NOTE INCLUDING THESE TWO POINTS TOGETHER WITH OUR LIST OF GRANTEEES OCCUPYING PRIVATE HOUSING AND HE WOULD THEN SEND A NOTE IN REPLY GIVING THE ASSURANCES WE SOUGHT. I ALSO PROPOSED THAT, ONCE THE SITUATION HAD BEEN CLARIFIED THROUGH HIS TALKS WITH THE OTHER ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS, THEY IN TURN SEND THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS A LETTER CONTAINING SUITABLE ASSURANCES REGARDING HOUSING IN KEEPING WITH THE TERMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS. FINALLY, I SUGGESTED THAT THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO EFFICIENCY-TYPE APARTMENTS RATHER THAN HOTELS AS A SOLUTION FOR LONG TERM SINGLE GRANTEEES.

4. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG OURSELVES, I TOLD GLIGA WE WOULD SIGN THE AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM DECEMBER 13 BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SIGN THE IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS. WE WOULD HOWEVER SEND A TELEGRAM TO WASHINGTON SETTING

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ACTION EUR-12

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O 131003Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1170
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL HOUSING STIPEND PLUS THE EXCHANGE
OF NOTES WILL GIVE US AS MUCH AS WE CAN OBTAIN IN THE WAY
OF ASSURANCES. IN ADDITION WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR
INTEREST TO HAVE THE IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS GO INTO
EFFECT JANUARY 1 BECAUSE OF THE OTHER PROGRAMS INVOLVED,
ESPECIALLY EXHIBITS WHERE WE HAVE "PHOTOGRAPHY USA"
SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY. NONETHELESS, WE DID NOT FEEL
WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE SIGNING OF THE IMPLEMENTING
CONDITIONS UNTIL WE HAD HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT
WITH WASHINGTON. REQUEST THEREFORE THAT DEPT CONTACT
OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE AGREEMENT AND PROGRAMS
THEREUNDER AND ADVISE US WHETHER WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO
PROCEED ALONG THE LINES SET OUT ABOVE. WE WOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATIONS OF
OR ALTERNATIVES TO THIS APPROACH THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL
ORGANIZATION MIGHT LIKE US TO EXPLORE. IT IN THE
DELEGATION'S VIEW THAT WE SHOULD MOVE FARILY RAPIDLY
TO GET ASSURANCES FROM THE ROMANIAN SIDE AND TO PUT THE
IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS INTO EFFECT. HOPE THEREFORE WE
CAN HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT EARLY NEXT WEEK.
BARNES

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